

Message Text

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H - MR SCHNEE

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, KS, MASS, SHUM

SUBJECT: RYAN STUDY MISSION REPORT ON VIETNAM AND KOREA:
HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S. ASSISTANCE.

1. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF HAS PROVIDED US AN
ADVANCE COPY OF STUDY REPORT PREPARED BY CONGRESSMAN
RYAN ON QUOTE A STUDY MISSION REPORT ON VIETNAM AND
KOREA: HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S. ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.
A COPY OF REPORT BEING POUCHED EMBASSY SEOUL.

2. FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS
FROM THAT REPORT:

(A) LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL CONTAINS FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH
ON KOREA:

QUOTE THERE CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS ABRIDGMENT OF
FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA. ALTHOUGH THE
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH KOREA HAS MADE EFFORTS TO APPEAR TO
BE SOFTENING ITS HARSH RULE, THERE HAS BEEN NO FUNDAMENT-
AL REVERSAL OF THE 2-YEAR OLD POLICY OF SUPPRESSION OF
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DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. IT IS INCUMBENT ON THE U.S. CON-

GRESS TO CONTINUE TO MONITOR EVENTS IN SOUTH KOREA AND TO CONSIDER HOW U.S. PROGRAMS AND PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA CAN BEST BE DESIGNED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY. UNQUOTE.

(B) CONCLUSION OF REPORT REGARDING KOREA IS QUOTE:
IN CONCLUSION, THE STUDY MISSION IS STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT THERE CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS CURTAILMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA AND THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH ABUSES. THE U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD GIVE STRONG CONSIDERATION TO WHETHER IT SHOULD TAKE ACTION THAT COULD ALTER THE SITUATION. VARIOUS SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PARK REGIME OVER THREATENED CESSATION OF U.S. MILITARY AID WILL SIMPLY PUSH PRESIDENT PARK TO THE WALL AND STIFFEN HIS RESOLVE.

PAST CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS, BOTH HEARINGS AND LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDS, SUCH AS THE FRASER AMENDMENT, HAVE HAD A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE KOREAN INTERNAL SITUATION. CONGRESS MUST CONTINUE TO PUBLICIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN KOREA. THROUGH LEGISLATION, CONGRESS SHOULD APPLY A STRATEGY OF GRADUATED RESPONSE TO CONDITIONS IN SOUTH KOREA. THAT STRATEGY SHOULD BE KEYED NOT JUST TO SHORT-TERM SIGNS OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO LONG-TERM CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS.

POLICY OPTIONS THAT WOULD BE OPEN TO THE CONGRESS WOULD INVOLVE VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS OF U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROGRAMS IN SOUTH KOREA:

ECONOMIC PROGRAMS -- NO NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE PLANNED FOR SOUTH KOREA. WHAT IS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE WILL BE EXPENDED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

PUBLIC LAW 480 - SOUTH KOREA CONTINUES TO BE SLATED TO RECEIVE PUBLIC LAW 480 COMMODITIES TO HELP MEET ITS FOOD DEFICIT.

MILITARY PROGRAMS - THE BULK OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HAS YET TO BE FUNDED WILL BE IN THE FORM OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF GRANT FUNDS ARE PLANNED FOR SOUTH KOREA FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL FISCAL YEARS.

MILITARY PRESENCE - SOME 38,000 U.S. TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN SOUTH KOREA. THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS PSYCHOLOGICAL AND TO SERVE AS A TRIPWIRE; THEY MAY NOT BE MILITARILY VITAL.

END QUOTE.
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